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*Address*: P. Herroelen p/a Royal Museum for Central Africa, Leuvensesteenweg 13, B-3080 Tervuren, Belgium. E-mail: paul.herroelen@tiscali.be



# *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851) – nomen protectum

*by Ernst Bauernfeind & Herbert Schifter*

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During our recent work on type specimens held in the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW), we discovered a case of objective synonymy in the genus *Oceanodroma*, that has been overlooked so far. *Procellaria lugubris* Bonaparte, 1845, ex Natterer MS, was based on a single specimen (Holotype NMW 40.989) still in our collection (Schifter *et al.* 2003). The specimen in question is obviously not *Hydrobates pelagicus* (L.), with which it was previously synonymised, but agrees well with a small series of *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851). *Oceanodroma lugubris* (Bonap.) would therefore represent the oldest available synonym of *O. castro* and have priority, unless it is considered a nomen oblitum, fulfilling the conditions of both ICZN (1999) art. 23.9.1.1. and 23.9.1.2.

Herein we propose prevailing usage to be maintained for *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851) based on ICZN (1999) art. 23.9.:

To our knowledge the name *Procellaria lugubris* Bonaparte, 1844 has not been used as a valid name after 1899, meeting therefore the conditions of ICZN art. 23.9.1.1. Most probably the name was last mentioned by Jordans (1933: 244; in synonymy).

The name *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851) has been used by subsequent authors for the above named taxon, as its presumed valid name, meeting all the conditions of ICZN art. 23.9.1.2. (see appendix).

Maintaining prevailing usage, the name *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851) is therefore considered valid (ICZN 1999 art.23.9.) and the synonymy may be given as follows:

*Procellaria lugubris* "Natterer" Bonaparte, 1845; Atti d. Sesta Riunione Sci. Ital., Vol. VII, Milano 1844: 445 [publ. 1845] (Hab. Oceanum) – **nomen oblitum**

= *Procellaria lugubris* Natterer MS

= *Procellaria lugubris* "Natterer" apud Bonaparte (1856: 769 no. 55, in tabula)

= *Procellaria lugubris* apud Bonaparte (1857: 197)

= *Hydrobates pelagicus* sensu Salvin (1896: 345) et auct. sequ., nec *Procellaria pelagica* Linnaeus, 1758 [misidentification]

= *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* sensu Jordans (1933: 244) nec *Thalassidroma melitensis* Schembri, 1843 [misidentification]

= *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851: 123); – **nomen protectum**

The confusion probably dates back to Salvin (1896), who listed "*Procellaria lugubris* Natterer (fide Bp.)" in synonymy of *Procellaria pelagica* Linnaeus, 1766 [sic]) and quoted "Bonaparte Acta Ital. Mediol. 1844" [which could not be traced] as a reference (from "Bonaparte (1855)" [= 1857; cf. Zimmer 1926: 69]). This opinion was followed by Godman (1907: 1) and Hartert (1920: 1410). When Jordans (1933: 244) redescribed Schembri's taxon (based on skins collected by Hermann Grün) he discussed *P. lugubris* with Hartert and again confirmed the (supposed) invalidity of the name: "Der Name ist also in jedem Fall synonym." Although he obtained information from Moriz Sassi (then curator at the bird collection NMW) that Bonaparte's type specimen was still extant, none of them actually saw the specimen or checked its identification. Hartert (cited in Jordans 1933) furthermore added to the confusion, because he was misled by Bonaparte's 1857 statement about the type locality ("Mus. Vindobon., ex Ocean. mer."), which he erroneously interpreted as "Mittelmeer" (Mediterranean) instead of Oceano meridionale (= Southern Ocean).

The taxonomic situation of *O. castro* is currently under discussion and a probable split into two species (or several subspecies) is very likely to occur (cf. Sangster 1999). Harris (1969: 99) reported significant size differences between birds originating from the Gulf of Guinea and those from the Cape Verde Islands. If sufficient evidence becomes available to recognise a separate taxon (for birds measuring larger than *O. castro* from the Cape Verde Islands) the name *Procellaria lugubris* Bonaparte (nom. oblit.) would still be available as a subjective senior synonym under the conditions of ICZN art. 23.9.2.

**Acknowledgments**

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## Appendix

***Material examined:***

*Procellaria lugubris* Bonaparte, 1845 nom. oblitum;

Holotype NMW 40.989 (relaxed mount), [unsexed], Southern Seas, bought from L.v. Fichtel 1807, "from Paris" [most probably originating from one of Baudin's expeditions], acquisition no. 1807.V.89.

*Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851) nom. protectum;

NMW 53.344 (skin) iuv. [unsexed], Porto Santo, Madeira, 4.3.1898, leg. E.J. Schmitz no. 242, ex coll. Tschusi, bought 1906.

NMW 53.346 (skin) @&, Porto Santo, Madeira, 23.12.1897, leg. E.J. Schmitz no. 210, ex coll. Tschusi, bought 1906.

NMW 53.375 (skin) B&, Porto Santo, Madeira, 26.6.1893, leg. E.J. Schmitz no. 555, ex coll. Tschusi, bought 1906.

*Hydrobates pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

NMW 53.352 (skin) @&, Ibiza, Baleares, 23.4.1930, leg. H. Grün, bought 1930.

NMW 53.353 (skin) B&, Ibiza, Baleares, 27.4.1930, leg. H. Grün, bought 1930.

NMW 53.354 (skin) B&, Ibiza, Baleares, 25.4.1930, leg. H. Grün, bought 1930.

NMW 53.355 (skin) @&, Ibiza, Baleares, 27.4.1930, leg. H. Grün, bought 1930.

NMW 83.650 (skin) B&, Ibiza, Baleares, 23.4.1930, leg. H. Grün, ex coll. Graf Seilern no. 9632, bought 1986.

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*Addresses:* Dr. Ernst Bauernfeind, Bird Collection, Natural History Museum Vienna, Burgring 7, A-1014 Wien, Austria, vogelsammlung@nhm-wien.ac.at; Dr. Herbert Schifter, Schautagasse 62, A-1100 Wien, Austria.



# First record of the Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix* for Ecuador

*by Patricio Mena Valenzuela & Olaf Jahn*

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The Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix* is restricted to South America, where it is represented by two disjunct populations, separated by the Amazon basin (Kushlan *et al.* 1982). The northern race *fostersmithi* is found mainly in the Colombian and Venezuelan *llanos*, which lie to the west and north of the Orinoco River. The southern nominate race is patchily distributed from Bolivia and Paraguay, through south-eastern Brazil to Uruguay and north-eastern Argentina (Hancock & Kushlan 1984). It is one of the least aquatic herons, inhabiting marshy areas in savannas, wet grasslands, rice paddies, ponds, muddy shores of lakes and watercourses, and to a lesser extent also flooded woodland (Martínez-Vilalta & Motis 1992). According to Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) the species has not been reported from Ecuador.

Between August and October 2000, Mena carried out an inventory of birds and small mammals in the community 'Asociación El Puma' (00°43'S, 76°54'W; *c.* 400 m), located *c.* 28 km SSE of Coca (Puerto Francisco de Orellana), Orellana Province. On the afternoon of 24 August he discovered a Whistling Heron, perched on a shrub *c.* 5 m above the ground. The site was characterized by a shallow pond, surrounded by grassy pasture on one side and shrubby vegetation on the other. At a greater distance the shrubs gradually turned into semi-open woodland. On a larger scale the area was part of the open and semi-open landscapes that extend along the Coca-